

MIAMI BEACH

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NO. LTC # **050-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 3, 2016

SUBJECT: Yacht Show Update

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide an update on the Yacht and Brokerage Show's efforts to reduce the amount of Styrofoam entering the waterways.

The Yacht and Brokerage show is scheduled to take place from February 11 - February 15. For the last several years, this event has been held in Miami Beach at the same location on Collins Avenue/Indian Creek Drive from approximately 41st Street to 51st Street. The show operates under an annual Special Event Permit from the City, but also requires a yearly Conditional Use Permit.

In order to be granted the Conditional Use permit, the Yacht and Brokerage show is subject to several conditions including the daily removal of all trash and debris from the surrounding area and in the water during the event and upon completion of the removal of the temporary docks and pilings. In April 2016, show management is required to submit a progress report and a five year mitigation plan on how they will continue to mitigate the impact of polystyrene docks, providing for the eventual replacement of all polystyrene foam in 5 years.

The Yacht Show has already begun transitioning their floating docks to an encapsulated system. This year, 10% of the docks are now using the encapsulated system. On January 27, 2016 the City Commission requested that staff review the technical specifications and provide feedback as to whether this alternative is environmentally sensitive. Staff has requested the specifications from the manufacturer; once the manufacturer has provided this information, staff will review and will report back to the City Commission. The Yacht Show is working with the manufacturer of encapsulated docks to discuss further acceleration of production process to convert the entire inventory of floating docks as quickly as possible.

Concerns were raised over the weekend that polystyrene was breaking off the docks in high quantities during load-in and the lack of protective booms. Code Compliance issued citations for this marine debris and staff has been working with the Yacht Show to develop enhanced mitigation strategies to minimize polystyrene from entering the waterway system. In addition to the two booms that were initially installed at the north (51st Street) and south (41st Street) ends of the event area, the Yacht Show has added the following components to their mitigation strategy:

- Doubling the number of daily clean-up staff from eight to sixteen people;

- Two-member clean-up teams will be assigned throughout the entire show area to maximize coverage;
- Pontoon boat cleaning the waterway area throughout the day;
- Increase cleanup hours from eight hours daily to nine hours daily during non-show days (additional cleanup hours during show days);
- Clean-up crews will have identifiable attire so their presence can be easily verified; and
- An additional protective boom has been placed around the set-up/installation area (Attachment A) to capture Styrofoam that is released during the installation process. It should be noted that this boom will need to be removed after all the floating docks have been loaded-in to allow for the load-in of the yachts. By the end of this week, a boom will be installed around the Pine Tree Park to protect the sensitive mangrove shoreline.

Additionally, the Yacht and Brokerage show has incorporated other environmentally conscious efforts such as the implementation of recycling throughout the event. All food vendors were also notified that Styrofoam food containers are not allowed and have switched from plastic to paper straws for the Miami Beach show. Quarterly cleanups of Pine Tree Park are also scheduled which focus on the removal of all debris including non-Styrofoam materials. These cleanups are increased during the show where staff is sent out on a weekly basis.

Attachment A: Photograph of Additional Booms

